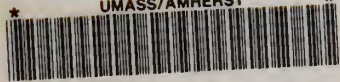


MASS

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Board of Library Commissioners

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New
Resolutions of the
Massachusetts Governor's
Conference on Libraries &
Information Services

Worcester / March 27, 1979

NEW RESOLUTIONS

for the March 27, 1979

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

MISCELLANEOUS

TV TAX FOR LIBRARY BOOKS

1. RESOLVED: That the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pass a dedicated tax of one-quarter of one percent of the purchase price of new television sets to be allocated to publicly supported libraries to buy books.

DISSEMINATION OF GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED RESEARCH RESULTS

2. RESOLVED: That appropriate allocation from federal research budgets be made to cover the costs of disseminating the resulting new information, thus giving some relief to libraries whose subscription now subsidize part of the information dissemination of government-supported research activity.

CABLE TELEVISION

3. RESOLVED: That the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services encourage and support the active participation of public libraries in their communities' licensing process for cable television and that said public libraries actively seek the opportunity and support to serve as the community public access channel.

AMERICAN CLASSICS

4. RESOLVED: That the publication of a complete, inexpensive, and readable edition of the classics of American literature be encouraged.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(See also: Cable TV; Networking (11b); Role of the Library (15))

5. RESOLVED: Boards of Trustees and administrators of public libraries should involve community residents and representatives of community organizations in the decision-making process concerning budgets and programming through such means as, but not limited to, board and committees representation, public hearings, citizen review committees, and citizen audit committees, starting, when appropriate, at the local branch level.
6. RESOLVED: That public library boards and administrators should be accountable for their decisions to library users, who shall be encouraged to develop consumer involvement in library affairs, which affect their information needs.

FUNDING

(See also: TV tax for Library Books; Dissemination of Government-Supported Research Results; Networking (11c); Role of the Library (14 & 16); School Libraries and Media Centers (19); Special Groups (23); Technology)

FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

7. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference urge Congress to appropriate such sums as are authorized under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act for the purpose of providing aid to public libraries for improving facility accessibility and energy conservation.
8. RESOLVED: That federal and state funds should be provided to support branch libraries in low-income neighborhoods to guarantee access to library services for people who are unable to travel to central libraries because of age, health, lack of income, or lack of transportation, and that branch libraries should be supported as a means of saving energy used in transportation to central libraries, and that federal and state funds should be provided to construct central libraries in locations accessible by mass transit as a means of social justice for transit-dependent low-income and elderly people and as a means of reducing energy consumed in travel to the libraries by car.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

9. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services in endorsing the principles of intellectual freedom expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement, FURTHER RESOLVES that libraries as guardians of the freedom to read have a responsibility to collect and make accessible to all citizens the widest possible variety of materials and points of view, and to contest attempts by individuals or groups to impose their standards or tastes upon library collections by censoring materials or restricting access to them.

LITERACY

10. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference strongly urges the Governor, the Legislature, the State Library Agency and board of trustees of local libraries to work in partnership with established literacy programs to implement effective basic reading and/or English as a second language tutorial programs in order to meet the libraries' obligation to reach out to a neglected constituency and create new users.

NETWORKING

11. RESOLVED: Whereas the bulk of support for library resources is at the local and institutional level, and WHEREAS given the fact that geographic, institutional, and political boundaries mean nothing to the individual seeking information, therefore be it RESOLVED (a) that systematic research and planning should take place on local, regional, state,

and national levels for sharing resources and services; and (b) that public polling techniques should be employed to determine general public attitudes toward and concerns about library and information services, public and private, especially regarding the adequacy of their services in meeting the needs of the public; and (c) that libraries be viewed as educational institutions and should be funded at levels commensurate with that role.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(See: Cable Television; Community Involvement; Funding; Role of the Library)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

12. RESOLVED: That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the American Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association, and other national and state library organizations, and the Board of Library Commissioners in Massachusetts make national and state publicity of library services one of their primary goals and that they allocate an adequate proportion of their budgets to promote the services that are or should be available to all library consumer groups.

ROLE OF THE LIBRARY

(See also: Cable TV; Intellectual Freedom; Literacy; Networking; School Media Center (18); Special Needs Group; Technology)

13. RESOLVED: That the Board of Education be instructed to prepare legislation that will designate the library as an institution of life-long continuing education.
14. RESOLVED: That the state of Massachusetts and the federal government reaffirm the role of the public library as an institution of life-long education open to all ages and conditions, to include but not be limited to, the poor, the pre-schooler, the senior citizen, the auto mechanic, the teacher, the bussinessperson, and, as such, that the public library is worthy of financial support at an adequate level.
15. RESOLVED: Whereas the public library is a free public agency central to the citizen, and Whereas the library has within its scope an entire realm of public and private information, be it RESOLVED that libraries have an obligation to encourage and promote citizen participation in political, financial and cultural affairs that affect the population.
16. RESOLVED: That the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognize the major public libraries to be an educational resource of great importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and that Chapter 78 of the General Laws (Chapter 764, Acts of 1974) be amended to include such recognition as an integral part of library legislation.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MEDIA CENTERS

17. RESOLVED: That in the interest of providing equality of educational opportunity for all students in the Commonwealth, there be a library media center in every school.
18. RESOLVED: That library media centers be recognized as teaching stations and be staffed by certified personnel.

19. RESOLVED: That categorical and discretionary funding patterns be established at all levels of government to assure continued growth in all areas of school library media services.
20. RESOLVED: That access to school libraries be mandated for all children in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
21. RESOLVED: That secondary schools and public libraries be encouraged and expected to join in a cooperative effort statewide whereby students learn about the offerings and services of the public library to be used in their adult years.
22. RESOLVED: That the State Board of Education should mandate that as a requirement for graduation from high school, all students must successfully complete a course in library and media skills, this course to be not less than 90 hours of regularly scheduled class time.

SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

23. RESOLVED: That both federal and state agencies include in their policy guidelines for the granting of funds for research and development of equipment or materials involving audio and/or visual components, consideration of specific requirements or criteria for the selection of grant awards. The awarding process should consider the immediate or ready application and accessibility for utilization by users with sensory or physical disabilities. This is to reduce or avoid unnecessary expenditures of funds for special modifications of such equipment and materials.
24. RESOLVED: That all systems of technological application to library services be designed to meet the needs of the print handicapped, as well as of the print reading majority, including braille reading access to computerized materials.
25. RESOLVED: That library staff training programs aimed at dealing with disadvantaged people be provided and that librarians working in these areas be involved with the preparation of the training programs.
26. RESOLVED: That the library association take on the plight of the unserved gifted child and provide challenging activities of many forms in public and school libraries.

TECHNOLOGY

(See also Special Needs Groups (24))

27. RESOLVED: That the Massachusetts Governor's Conference propose that federal money be set aside to investigate appropriate, low-cost technologies which are responsive to the information needs of local populations for example: skills exchanges, personal computing networks, and information referral services.